Barbados racer

The **Barbados racer** (*Erythrolamprus perfuscus*), also commonly known as the **tan ground snake**, was a species of colubrid snake that was endemic to Barbados.[1][2]

Barbados racer
Conservation status
Extinct (IUCN 3.1)[1]
Scientific classification
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Suborder: Serpentes
Family: Colubridae
Genus: *Erythrolamprus*
Species: ***E. perfuscus***
Binomial name
Erythrolamprus perfuscus Cope, 1862
Synonyms
▪ *Liophis perfuscus* (Cope, 1862) ▪ *Dromicus perfuscus* – Grant, 1959

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History

This species was often believed to be the snake described by Richard Ligon in his "*A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes*" (1657):[3]

> "Having done with Beasts and Birds, we will enquire what other lesser Animalls or Insects there are upon the Iland, of which, Snakes are the chiefe, because the largest; and I have seen some of those a yard and a halfe long."[4]

Conservation status

It is believed to be extinct, as there has not been a confirmed sighting since 1961.[3][5][6][7] Habitat loss is believed to have caused its decline, particularly the land clearance and pesticide use associated with tree crops.[8]

Description

It grew to a total length of 1 m (39 in), which included a tail 20 cm (7.9 in) long.[9] It was colored brown with lighter sides, and light lateral stripes to the rear.[10]

Habitat, behavior, and diet

It probably lived in mesic habitats, and actively foraged during the day for lizards and frogs.[10]

Footnotes

1. Daltry, J.C. 2016. Erythrolamprus perfuscus (errata version published in 2017). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T12081A115104581. https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T12081A71739729.en. Downloaded on 02 October 2018.
2. *Erythrolamprus perfuscus* (http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species.php?genus=Erythrolamprus&species=perfuscus) at the Reptarium.cz Reptile Database (http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/). Accessed 28 January 2016.
3. Adrian Hailey; Byron Wilson; Julia Horrocks (7 April 2011). *Conservation of Caribbean Island Herpetofaunas Volume 2: Regional Accounts of the West Indies* (https://books.google.com/books?id=QNdbVSDfF6oC&pg=PA89). Brill. pp. 99–100. ISBN 978-90-04-19408-3.
4. Ligon, Richard (1657). *A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes* (http://media.wix.com/ugd/f295da_e1cc09fda4524e6aab26e7e904e43a30.pdf) (PDF). London.
5. Malhotra & Thorpe 1999, p. 98 ("[I]t is almost certainly extinct")
6. Government of Barbados 2002, p. 55 ("If it is not already extinct, *Liophis* is certainly one of the world's rarest species")
7. Powell & Henderson 2005, p. 65 (listing *L. perfuscus* as "probably extinct" and "eliminated" from Barbados).
8. Government of Barbados 2002, p. 55.
9. Boulenger, G.A. 1894. *Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum (Natural History). Volume II., Containing the Conclusion of the Colubridæ Aglyphæ.* Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History). (Taylor and Francis, Printers.) London. xi + 382 pp. + Plates I.- XX. (*Liophis perfuscus*, p. 133.)
10. Malhotra & Thorpe 1999, p. 98.

References

- Government of Barbados (2002), *A National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan for Barbados* (https://web.archive.org/web/20070928050152/http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bb/bb-nbsap-01-en.doc), archived from the original (http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bb/bb-nbsap-01-en.doc) on September 28, 2007, retrieved June 6, 2013.
- Malhotra, Anita; Thorpe, Roger S. (1999), *Reptiles & Amphibians of the Eastern Caribbean*, Macmillan Education Ltd., pp. 97–98, ISBN 978-0-333-69141-0.
- Powell, Robert; Henderson, Robert W. (2005), "Conservation Status of Lesser Antillean Reptiles", *Iguana*, **12** (2): 63–77

Further reading

- Cope, E.D. 1862. Synopsis of the Species of *Holcosus* and *Ameiva*, with Diagnoses of new West Indian and South American Colubridæ. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia **14**: 60-82. (*Liophis perfuscus*, p. 77.)
- Schwartz, A., and R. Thomas. 1975. *A Check-list of West Indian Amphibians and Reptiles*. Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 216 pp. (*Dromicus perfuscus*, p. 183.)

External links

- Data related to *Erythrolamprus perfuscus* at Wikispecies
- *Liophis perfuscus* (http://www.eol.org/pages/791681) at the Encyclopedia of Life

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